

Jock White Field Day Report 2025

First, next year is the case where there are only three full weekends in February. This means that Field Day goes to February 28-March 1. This is to avoid a clash with the ARRL international CW contest.

Thanks to all of you who went out into the field to operate, this was the best turn out in years with a total of 92 valid multipliers active. With all the ham crams we may be turning a corner. Christchurch branch 5 appeared too: thanks guys. Lets keep it up in 2026! There were a few more branches active on CW too. The weather was good across most of the country except for South Otago and Southland where they experienced wind and rain.

An interesting break from tradition this year was hearing the Franklin branch on CW, having been phone only for years. Warren ZL2AJ operating as Waitomo branch 55 operated from a peak in the Waikato; SOTA and Field Day!

Propagation was a mixed bag with 40 metres being very good even at 0600 on Sunday, but 80 was pretty lousy, worse than last year which was not that great either.

There were the usual worried admissions of muck ups with cyphers etc: e.g. the same numbers repeated for the next hour. I still allow these contacts, don't worry.

VK3AVV logging software: can teams using this please take more effort with tidying up their entries. In several cases I get an entry for each band mode, and the multiplier lists are not in tidy columns making my job harder.

Summary sheets 1-4: Most digital entries use these, but a few don't. Please transcribe your multipliers and scoring over to these pages, it would save the VK3AVV problem above too.

Another plea to those scoring digitally: do a sanity check of your claimed multipliers, check for garbage in-garbage out. Just one example is claiming ZL2KO for branch 20 and branch 21.

With the new website some of you had trouble finding the rules etc. I will take this up with the webmaster, I think this will be a one off. One good suggestion was to have a banner link on the home page in the month leading up to the event which I will follow up on.

Minimum contact numbers: there were ten cases of being below this. Make sure you plan what bands/modes you intend to operate on to reach 50 phone or 20 CW contacts. I find it quite irritating when a branch makes 3 or 4 CW contacts for example. These are deleted by me, and they are not valid for the branches that wasted their time at the other end.

Genuine unsolicited team comments

Paddock had cows and sheep, cow pats are not as inviting as in the Footrot flats cartoon make them out to be.

Kauri die back meant there was small sideshow this time: a car wash and clean before entry into the park.

Perfect weather.

JWFD helps reinvigorate interest in HF and in operating generally. It is also a team building activity and great opportunity to use caravans and campervans.

I slept in the back of my car and even the mosquitos were not too bad, but I did burn a couple of mossie coils.

We have not done field day for a while and this was about getting the club out doing somethings as a group rather than being competitive.

Very good clean operators.

Some came to operate for the weekend, some only for a short time and some came just to be supportive and enjoy the BBQ.

Good signals this year, no splatter issues here.

Valid multipliers

Total of 92 this year (Max of 88 for a field station)

80 phone 01 02 05 06 08 10 11 13 15 16 18 20 22 26 27 28 29 30 34 37 38 42 58 61 65
68 69 71 76 77 87 89 90 (33)

80 CW 05 08 10 16 22 26 28 30 68 69 77 87 (12)

40 Phone 01 02 05 06 08 10 11 13 15 16 20 22 27 28 29 30 34 35 37 38 42 51 53 55 56
58 61 63 65 68 71 76 77 86 89 90 (36)

40 CW 05 08 10 22 27 28 30 35 56 68 77 (11)

Invalid Multipliers (insufficient contacts)

80 phone: 35 51 86 80 CW: 13 27 29 37 40 CW: 90

Check logs:

ZL2AIM ZL2TW

Stuart Watchman ZL2TW